

Dr. Anna Barker, Deputy Director, National Cancer Institute, Accepts Research Excellence Award Along with Dr. Kenneth Kinzler, Professor of Oncology at The Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center - Describes Hope for Near Future Projects Dealing with Glioblastomas

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National Brain Tumor Society proudly presented its first "Founders Award for Research Excellence" jointly to The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Group, and the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center and Duke University Medical Center Group, respectively. The award recognized their ground-breaking work in the major collective advancement in the genomic analysis of gliomas.

"These two groups collectively used complementary approaches in their genomic analyses of glioblastoma and presented an unparalleled, and most comprehensive view to date of the complicated genomic changes that occur in the tumors," said National Brain Tumor Society Executive Director, N. Paul TonThat. "Their work exemplifies the collaboration that is so greatly needed to identify a cure and improve the quality of life for those affected by brain tumors."

"My message tonight is that while what we have done with the Cancer Genome Atlas is remarkable; what scientists are going to do with the data is even more remarkable," said Dr. Anna Barker, Deputy Director, National Cancer Institute in acceptance of the award for The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Group. "If we are meeting here five years from now, and we have not really nailed our understanding this tumor, I will be extraordinarily disappointed. And if we do not have very large number of agents to actually, if not cure this disease, have people live with it, instead of die from it, I'm going to be exceedingly disappointed."

"We are fortunate to be on the verge of the genetic understanding of human cancer," said Dr. Kenneth Kinzler, Professor of Oncology at The Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center who accepted the award for The Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center and Duke University Medical Center Group. "The challenge and the opportunity will be exploiting this information to win the war."

The award, created to honor the organization founders, Bonnie Feldman and Walter Newman, recognizes an exceptional research team whose investigations hold promise for clinical improvements. Presenting the award were Bonnie Feldman and Walter's long-time associate, Sharon Lamb.